

Please add new Claims 109 and 110, as follows:

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--109. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein the width of said slots in end rows is smaller than the width of said slots in rows near the center.

110. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein the length of said slots in end rows is smaller than the length of said slots in rows near the center.--

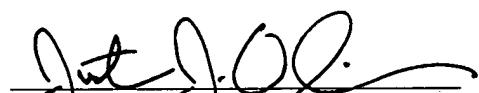
REMARKS

Claims 4-53, 55, 57-99, and 108-110 are now pending in this application.

Claims 67-99 and 108 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4, 19, 22, 25, 31, 35, 37, 42, 50, 53, and 58 are independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 100-107 and added new Claims 109 and 110, to provide an additional scope of protection. Applicants submit that the claims are allowable for the reasons set forth in the Amendment filed December 2, 2002. Applicants therefore request favorable consideration and allowance of this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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